

OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

After reviewing data collected from **Goose Pond, Canaan**, the program coordinators have made the following observations and recommendations.

Thank you for your continued hard work sampling the pond this year! Your monitoring group sampled the deep spot three times this year and has done so for many years! As you know, conducting multiple sampling events each year enables DES to more accurately detect water quality changes. Keep up the good work!

We encourage your monitoring group to continue utilizing the Colby Sawyer College Water Quality Laboratory is open in New London. This laboratory was established to serve the large number of lakes/ponds in the greater Lake Sunapee region of the state. This laboratory is inspected by DES and operates under a DES approved quality assurance plan. We encourage your monitoring group to utilize this laboratory next summer for all sampling events, except for the annual DES biologist visit. To find out more about the Colby Sawyer College Water Quality Laboratory, and/or to schedule dates to pick up bottles and equipment, please call Bonnie Lewis, laboratory manager, at (603) 526-3486.

In 2007, DES met on-site with the Goose Pond Lake Association and the Town of Hanover Department of Public Works to propose several stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Wolfeboro Road and the bridge crossing of Marshall Brook at the north end of the pond. Wolfeboro Road is gravel and the shoulders of Goose Pond Road frequently erode and wash into Marshall Brook. Phosphorus, the limiting nutrient for plant and algae growth in Goose Pond, binds to sediment. Phosphorus bound sediment can be made available to plants and algae by desorption or biological mineralization. Therefore, minimizing the amount of sediment discharging to Marshall Brook is critical to maintaining Goose Pond's water quality.

The GPLA, Hanover DPW and DES made several suggestions on how to mitigate sediment transport and discharge to Marshall Brook, including turn-outs, retention areas, headwall improvements, bridge improvements, and a reduction in exposed gravel areas.

Several of the BMPs recommended in 2007 were implemented. Specifically, this included reducing the open gravel road areas by reducing road width and planting native vegetation, paving a portion of Wolfeboro Road near the bridge, installing a sediment barrier or guard to prevent sediment transport off the bridge and directly into Marshall Brook, and constructing a road turnout to trap sediment prior to discharging to the brook. Well done GPLA and Town of Hanover!

FIGURE INTERPRETATION

CHLOROPHYLL-A

- **Figure 1 and Table 1:** Figure 1 in Appendix A depicts the historical and current year chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column. Table 1 in Appendix B lists the minimum, maximum, and mean concentration for each year that the pond has been monitored through VLAP.

Chlorophyll-a, a pigment found in plants, is an indicator of the algal abundance. Algae (also known as phytoplankton) are typically microscopic, chlorophyll producing plants that naturally occur in lake ecosystems. The chlorophyll-a concentration measured in the water gives biologists an estimation of the algal concentration or lake productivity. **The median summer chlorophyll-a concentration for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is 4.58 mg/m³.**

The current year data (the top graph) show that the chlorophyll-a concentration **decreased** from **May** to **July**, and then **increased** from **July** to **September**.

The historical data (the bottom graph) show that the **2010** chlorophyll-a mean is **slightly less than** the state median and is **slightly greater than** the similar lake median. For more information on the similar lake median, refer to Appendix F.

Overall, the statistical analysis of the historical data (the bottom graph) shows that the mean annual chlorophyll-a concentration has **not significantly changed** since monitoring began. Specifically, the mean annual chlorophyll-a concentration has **fluctuated between approximately 1.98 and 5.19 mg/m³**, but has **not continually increased or decreased** since **1989**. Please refer to Appendix E for a detailed statistical analysis explanation and data print-out.

Please note that this trend is based upon historical data (1989-2006) obtained through the University of New Hampshire Lakes Lay Monitoring Program (UNH LLMP).

While algae are naturally present in all lakes and ponds, an excessive or increasing amount of any type is not welcomed. In freshwater lakes and ponds, phosphorus is the nutrient that algae typically depend upon for growth in New Hampshire lakes. Algal concentrations may increase as nonpoint sources of phosphorus from the watershed increase, or as in-lake phosphorus sources increase. Therefore, it is extremely important for volunteer monitors to continually educate all watershed residents about management practices that can be implemented to minimize phosphorus loading to surface waters.

TRANSPARENCY

- **Figure 2 and Tables 3a and 3b:** Figure 2 in Appendix A shows the historical and current year data for transparency with and without the use of a viewscope. Table 3a in Appendix B lists the minimum, maximum and mean transparency data without the use of a viewscope and Table 3b lists the minimum, maximum and mean transparency data with the use of a viewscope for each year that the pond has been monitored through VLAP.

Volunteer monitors use the Secchi disk, a 20 cm disk with alternating black and white quadrants, to measure how far a person can see into the water. Transparency, a measure of water clarity, can be affected by the amount of algae and sediment in the water, as well as the natural lake color of the water. **The median summer transparency for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is 3.2 meters.**

The current year data (the top graph) show that the non-viewscope in-lake transparency **increased** from **May** to **July**, and then **decreased** from **July** to **September**.

It is important to note that as the chlorophyll concentration **decreased** from **May** to **July**, the transparency **increased**, and as the chlorophyll **increased** from **July** to **September**, the transparency **decreased**. We typically expect this **inverse** relationship in lakes. As the amount of algal cells in the water **decreases**, the depth to which one can see into the water column typically **increases**, and vice-versa.

The historical data (the bottom graph) show that the **2010** mean non-viewscope transparency is **greater than** the state median and is **slightly less than** the similar lake median. Please refer to Appendix F for more information about the similar lake median.

The current year data (the top graph) show that the viewscope in-lake transparency **decreased** from **May** to **September**. The transparency

measured with the viewscope was generally **greater than** the transparency measured without the viewscope this summer. A comparison of the transparency readings taken with and without the use of a viewscope shows that the viewscope typically increases the depth to which the Secchi disk can be seen into the lake, particularly on sunny and windy days. We recommend that your group measure Secchi disk transparency with and without the viewscope on each sampling event.

It is important to note that viewscope transparency data are not compared to a New Hampshire median or similar lake median. This is because lake transparency with the use of a viewscope has not been historically measured by DES. At some point in the future, the New Hampshire and similar lake medians for viewscope transparency will be calculated and added to the appropriate graphs.

Overall, the statistical analysis of the historical data (the bottom graph) shows that the mean annual in-lake non-viewscope transparency has **not significantly changed** (either *increased* or *decreased*) since monitoring began. Specifically, the in-lake transparency has remained **relatively stable, ranging between approximately 4.0 and 6.0 meters** since **1989**. Please refer to Appendix E for the statistical analysis explanation and data print-out.

Please note that this trend is based upon historical data (1989-2006) obtained through the University of New Hampshire Lakes Lay Monitoring Program (UNH LLMP).

Typically, high intensity rainfall causes sediment-laden stormwater runoff to flow into surface waters, thus increasing turbidity and decreasing clarity. Efforts to stabilize stream banks, lake and pond shorelines, disturbed soils within the watershed, and especially dirt roads located immediately adjacent to the edge of tributaries and the lake or pond should continue on an annual basis. Guides to best management practices that can be implemented to reduce, and possibly even eliminate, nonpoint source pollutants, are available from DES upon request.

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

- **Figure 3 and Table 8:** The graphs in Figure 3 in Appendix A show the amount of epilimnetic (upper layer) phosphorus and hypolimnetic (lower layer) phosphorus; the inset graphs show current year data. Table 8 in Appendix B lists the annual minimum, maximum, and median concentration for each deep spot layer and each tributary since the pond has been sampled through VLAP.

Phosphorus is typically the limiting nutrient for vascular aquatic plant and algae growth in New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. Excessive phosphorus in a lake or pond can lead to increased plant and algal growth over time. **The median summer total phosphorus concentration in the epilimnion (upper layer) of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is 12 ug/L. The median summer phosphorus concentration in the hypolimnion (lower layer) is 14 ug/L.**

The current year data for the epilimnion (the top inset graph) show that the phosphorus concentration **decreased** from **May** to **July**, and then **increased slightly** from **July** to **September**.

The **slightly elevated** epilimnetic phosphorus concentration measured on the **June** sampling event may be a result of phosphorus-enriched stormwater runoff that flowed into the surface layer of the pond. Weather records show that approximately **0.5 inches** of rain fall was measured **24 hours** prior to sampling.

The historical data show that the **2010** mean epilimnetic phosphorus concentration is **less than** the state median and is **slightly greater than** the similar lake median. Refer to Appendix F for more information about the similar lake median.

The current year data for the hypolimnion (the bottom inset graph) show that the phosphorus concentration **decreased** from **May** to **September**.

The historical data show that the **2010** mean hypolimnetic phosphorus concentration is **less than** the state and similar lake medians. Please refer to Appendix F for more information about the similar lake median.

Overall, visual inspection of the historical data trend line for the epilimnion and hypolimnion shows a **stable** phosphorus trend since monitoring began. Specifically the mean annual epilimnetic and hypolimnetic phosphorus concentration has **remained approximately the same** since monitoring began in **2007**.

After 10 consecutive years of sample collection, we will be able to conduct a statistical analysis of the historical data to objectively determine if there has been a significant change in the annual mean phosphorus concentration since monitoring began.

Please note that UNH LLMP historical data were not used for trend analyses. This is due to different field collection methods between programs and therefore the data are not comparable.

One of the most important approaches to reducing phosphorus loading to a waterbody is to continually educate watershed residents about the watershed sources of phosphorus and how excessive phosphorus loading can negatively impact the ecology and the recreational, economical, and ecological value of lakes and ponds.

TABLE INTERPRETATION

➤ **Table 2: Phytoplankton**

Table 2 in Appendix B lists the current and historical phytoplankton and/or cyanobacteria observed in the pond. Specifically, this table lists the three most dominant phytoplankton and/or cyanobacteria observed in the sample and their relative abundance in the sample.

The dominant phytoplankton and/or cyanobacteria observed in the **May** sample were ***Asterionella* (Diatom)**, ***Rhizosolenia* (Diatom)**, and ***Cyclotella* (Diatom)**.

Phytoplankton populations undergo a natural succession during the growing season. Please refer to the “Biological Monitoring Parameters” section of this report for a more detailed explanation regarding seasonal plankton succession. Diatoms and golden-brown algae populations are typical in New Hampshire’s less productive lakes and ponds.

➤ **Table 4: pH**

Table 4 in Appendix B presents the in-lake and tributary current year and historical pH data.

pH is measured on a logarithmic scale of 0 (acidic) to 14 (basic). pH is important to the survival and reproduction of fish and other aquatic life. A pH below 6.0 typically limits the growth and reproduction of fish. A pH between 6.0 and 7.0 is ideal for fish. The median pH value for the epilimnion (upper layer) in New Hampshire’s lakes and ponds is **6.6**, which indicates that the state surface waters are slightly acidic. For a more detailed explanation regarding pH, please refer to the “Chemical Monitoring Parameters” section of this report.

The mean pH at the deep spot this year ranged from **6.44** in the hypolimnion to **6.81** in the epilimnion, which means that the water is ***slightly acidic***.

It is important to point out that the hypolimnetic (lower layer) pH was **lower (more acidic)** than in the epilimnion (upper layer). This increase in acidity near the pond bottom is likely due to the decomposition of organic matter and the release of acidic by-products into the water column.

➤ **Table 5: Acid Neutralizing Capacity**

Table 5 in Appendix B presents the current year and historical epilimnetic ANC for each year the pond has been monitored through VLAP.

Buffering capacity (ANC) describes the ability of a solution to resist changes in pH by neutralizing the acidic input. The median ANC value for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is **4.8 mg/L**, which indicates that many lakes and ponds in the state are at least "moderately vulnerable" to acidic inputs. For a more detailed explanation about ANC, please refer to the "Chemical Monitoring Parameters" section of this report.

The mean acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of the epilimnion (upper layer) was **6.1 mg/L**, which is **slightly greater than** the state median. In addition, this indicates that the pond is **moderately vulnerable** to acidic inputs.

➤ **Table 6: Conductivity**

Table 6 in Appendix B presents the current and historical conductivity values for tributaries and in-lake data. Conductivity is the numerical expression of the ability of water to carry an electric current, which is determined by the number of negatively charged ions from metals, salts, and minerals in the water column. The median conductivity value for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is **40.0 uMhos/cm**. For a more detailed explanation, please refer to the "Chemical Monitoring Parameters" section of this report.

The mean annual epilimnetic conductivity at the deep spot this year was **35.1 uMhos/cm**, which is **slightly less than** the state median.

The conductivity in the pond is relatively **stable** and **low**. Typically conductivity levels greater than 100 uMhos/cm indicate the influence of pollutant sources associated with human activities. These sources include septic system leachate, agricultural runoff, and road runoff which contains road salt during the spring snow-melt. We hope this trend continues!

The conductivity has **increased** in **Mourton Brook** since monitoring began. In addition, the conductivity is **greater than** the state

median. Typically, increasing conductivity indicates the influence of pollutant sources associated with human activities. These sources include failed or marginally functioning septic systems, agricultural runoff, stormwater runoff, and road runoff which can contain road salt during the spring snow-melt. New development in the watershed can alter runoff patterns and expose new soil and bedrock areas, which could also contribute to increasing conductivity. In addition, natural sources, such as iron and manganese deposits in bedrock, can influence conductivity.

We recommend that your monitoring group conduct stream surveys and rain event sampling along tributaries with **elevated** conductivity to help identify the sources.

For a detailed explanation on how to conduct rain event sampling and stream surveys, please refer to the 2002 VLAP Annual Report special topic article, which is posted on the VLAP website at <http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/categories/publications.htm>, or contact the VLAP Coordinator.

➤ **Table 8: Total Phosphorus**

Table 8 in Appendix B presents the current year and historical total phosphorus data for in-lake and tributary stations. Phosphorus is the nutrient that limits the ability of algae and aquatic plants to grow and reproduce. Please refer to the “Chemical Monitoring Parameters” section of this report for a more detailed explanation.

The total phosphorus concentration in **Marshall Brook** was **elevated (180 ug/L)** on the **May** sampling event. The turbidity of the sample was also **elevated (5.89 NTUs)**, which suggests that the stream bottom may have been disturbed while sampling or that erosion is occurring in the watershed.

The total phosphorus concentration in the **Campbell Culvert** was **elevated (35 ug/L)** on the **May** sampling event. The turbidity of the sample was also **elevated (13.6 NTUs)**, which suggests that the stream bottom may have been disturbed while sampling or that erosion is occurring in the watershed.

When the stream bottom is disturbed, phosphorus rich sediment is released into the water column. When collecting tributary samples, please be sure to sample where the tributary is flowing and where the stream is deep enough to collect a “clean” sample free from organic debris and sediment.

If you suspect that erosion is occurring in this area of the watershed,

we recommend that your monitoring group conduct a stream survey and rain event sampling along this tributary. This additional sampling may allow us to determine what is causing the **elevated** levels of turbidity and phosphorus.

For a detailed explanation on how to conduct rain event sampling and stream surveys, please refer to the 2002 VLAP Annual Report special topic article, which is posted on the VLAP website at <http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/categories/publications.htm>, or contact the VLAP Coordinator.

➤ **Table 9 and Table 10: Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Data**

Table 9 in Appendix B shows the dissolved oxygen/temperature profile(s) collected during **2010**. Table 10 in Appendix B shows the historical and current year dissolved oxygen concentration in the hypolimnion (lower layer). The presence of sufficient amounts of dissolved oxygen in the water column is vital to fish and amphibians and bottom-dwelling organisms. Please refer to the “Chemical Monitoring Parameters” section of this report for a more detailed explanation.

The dissolved oxygen concentration was **high** at all deep spot depths sampled at the pond on the **May** sampling event. As thermally stratified ponds age, and as the summer progresses, oxygen typically becomes **depleted** in the hypolimnion (lower layer) by bacterial decomposition. Specifically, the loss of oxygen in the hypolimnion results primarily from biological organisms using oxygen to break down organic matter, both in the water column and particularly at the bottom of the lake or pond where the water meets the sediment. The **high** oxygen level in the hypolimnion is a sign of the pond’s overall good health. We hope this continues!

➤ **Table 11: Turbidity**

Table 11 in Appendix B lists the current year and historical data for in-lake and tributary turbidity. Turbidity in the water is caused by suspended matter, such as clay, silt, and algae. Water clarity is strongly influenced by turbidity. Please refer to the “Other Monitoring Parameters” section of this report for a more detailed explanation.

The turbidity in the **Campbell Culvert** sample was **elevated (13.6 NTUs)** on the **May** sampling event. Low water flow in Campbell culvert likely contributed to the elevated turbidity.

The turbidity in the **Hinkson Brook and Marshall Brook North** samples was **slightly elevated** on the **July** sampling event. Dry weather conditions likely caused low stream flow conditions,

suggesting sediment contamination in the samples.

When the stream bottom is disturbed, sediment, which typically contains attached phosphorus, is released into the water column. When collecting tributary samples please sample where there's sufficient stream flow and depth to collect a "clean" sample free from debris and sediment.

The turbidity in the **Marshall Brook** sample was **elevated (5.89 NTUs)** on the **May** sampling event.

The turbidity in the **Goose Pond Brook and Marshall Brook North** samples was **slightly elevated (2.48 and 2.21 NTUs)** on the **September** sampling event.

Weather records indicate **0.5 inches** of rainfall **24 hours** prior to the **May** sampling, and **1.0 inch** of rainfall **24 hours** prior to the **September** sampling event. This suggests that erosion may be occurring in the Goose Pond Brook and Marshall Brook area of the watershed. If you suspect erosion in the watershed, we recommend conducting a stream survey to identify sediment erosion. We also recommend that your monitoring group conduct rain event sampling along this tributary. This additional sampling may allow us to determine what is causing the **elevated** levels of turbidity.

For a detailed explanation on how to conduct rain event sampling and stream surveys, please refer to the 2002 VLAP Annual Report special topic article, which is posted on the VLAP website at <http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/categories/publications.htm>, or contact the VLAP Coordinator.

➤ **Table 12: Bacteria (*E.coli*)**

Table 12 in Appendix B lists the current year and historical data for bacteria (*E.coli*) testing. *E. coli* is a normal bacterium found in the large intestine of humans and other warm-blooded animals. *E.coli* is used as an indicator organism because it is easily cultured and its presence in the water, in defined amounts, indicates that sewage **may** be present. If sewage is present in the water, potentially harmful disease-causing organisms **may** also be present.

The *E. coli* concentration was **very low** at the **Beach** station sampled on the **July** sampling event. Specifically, the result was **1 count**, which is **much less than** the state standard of 406 counts per 100 mL for recreational surface waters that are not designated public beaches and 88 counts per 100 mL for surface waters that are designated public beaches.

➤ **Table 13: Chloride**

Table 13 in Appendix B lists the current year and the historical data for chloride sampling. The chloride ion (Cl⁻) is found naturally in some surfacewaters and groundwaters and in high concentrations in seawater. Research has shown that elevated chloride levels can be toxic to freshwater aquatic life. In order to protect freshwater aquatic life in New Hampshire, the state has adopted **acute and chronic** chloride criteria of **860 and 230 mg/L** respectively. The chloride content in New Hampshire lakes is naturally low, generally less than 2 mg/L in surface waters located in remote areas away from habitation. Higher values are generally associated with salted highways and, to a lesser extent, with septic inputs. Please refer to the “Chemical Monitoring Parameters” section of this report for a more detailed explanation.

The **epilimnion** was sampled for chloride during the **May** sampling event. The result was **< 3 mg/L**, which is ***much less than*** the state acute and chronic chloride criteria.

We recommend that your monitoring group continue to conduct chloride sampling in the epilimnion, particularly in the spring during snow-melt and rain events during the summer. This will establish a baseline of data that will assist your monitoring group and DES to determine lake quality trends in the future.

Please note that chloride analyses can be run free of charge at the DES Limnology Center. Please contact the VLAP Coordinator if you are interested in chloride monitoring. In addition, it is best to conduct chloride sampling in the spring as the snow is melting and during rain events.

➤ **Table 14: Current Year Biological and Chemical Raw Data**

Table 14 in Appendix B lists the most current sampling year results. Since the maximum, minimum, and annual mean values for each parameter are not shown on this table, this table displays the current year “raw,” meaning unprocessed, data. The results are sorted by station, depth, and then parameter.

➤ **Table 15: Station Table**

As of the spring of 2004, all historical and current year VLAP data are included in the DES Environmental Monitoring Database (EMD). To facilitate the transfer of VLAP data into the EMD, a new station identification system had to be developed. While volunteer monitoring groups can still use the sampling station names that they have used in the past and are most familiar with, an EMD station name also exists for each VLAP sampling location. Table 15 in

Appendix B identifies what EMD station name corresponds to the station names you have used in the past and will continue to use in the future.

DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTROL

Annual Assessment Audit:

During the annual visit to your pond, the biologist conducted a sampling procedures assessment audit for your monitoring group. Specifically, the biologist observed the performance of your monitoring group and completed an assessment audit sheet to document the volunteer monitors' ability to follow the proper field sampling procedures, as outlined in the VLAP Monitor's Field Manual. This assessment is used to identify any aspects of sample collection in which volunteer monitors failed to follow proper procedures, and also provides an opportunity for the biologist to retrain the volunteer monitors as necessary. This will ultimately ensure samples that the volunteer monitors collect are truly representative of actual lake and tributary conditions.

Overall, your monitoring group did an **excellent** job collecting samples on the annual biologist visit this year! Specifically, the members of your monitoring group followed the proper field sampling procedures and there was no need for the biologist to provide additional training. Keep up the good work!

Sample Receipt Checklist:

Each time your monitoring group dropped off samples at the laboratory this summer, the laboratory staff completed a sample receipt checklist to assess and document if your group followed proper sampling techniques when collecting the samples. The purpose of the sample receipt checklist is to minimize, and hopefully eliminate, improper sampling techniques.

Overall, the sample receipt checklist showed that your monitoring group did a **very good** job when collecting samples this year! Specifically, the members of your monitoring group followed the majority of the proper field sampling procedures when collecting and submitting samples to the laboratory. However, the laboratory did identify a few aspects of sample collection that your group could improve upon, as follows:

- **Tributary sampling:** Please do not sample tributaries that are not flowing. Due to the lack of flushing, stagnant water typically contains **elevated** amounts of chemical and biological constituents that will lead to results that are not representative of the quality of water that typically flows into the lake.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Best Management Practices to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Guide for Citizens and Town Officials, DES Booklet WD-03-42, (603) 271-2975 or

www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-03-42.pdf.

Erosion Control for Construction in the Protected Shoreland Buffer Zone, DES fact sheet WD-SP-1, (603) 271-2975 or

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/sp/documents/sp-1.pdf>

Iron Bacteria in Surface Water, DES fact sheet WD-BB-18, (603) 271-2975 or

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-18.pdf>.

NH Stormwater Management Manual Volume 1: Stormwater and Antidegradation, DES fact sheet WD-08-20A, (603) 271-2975 or

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-08-20a.pdf>

NH Stormwater Management Manual Volume 2: Post-Construction Best Management Practices Selection and Design, DES fact sheet WD-08-20B, (603) 271-2975 or

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-08-20b.pdf>

NH Stormwater Management Manual Volume 3: Erosion and Sediment Controls During Construction, DES fact sheet WD-08-20C, (603) 271-2975 or

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-08-20c.pdf>

Through the Looking Glass: A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants, North American Lake Management Society, 1988, (608) 233-2836 or www.nalms.org.

Vegetation Maintenance Within the Protected Shoreland, DES fact sheet WD-SP-5, (603) 271-2975 or

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/sp/documents/sp-5.pdf>